

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13930 071835Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 071446Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5537

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13930

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: FEDAYEEN RE PALESTINIAN STATE

REF: BEIRUT 13717

1. PDFLP CHIEF NAYEF HAWATMEH, IN REMARKABLE SPEECH AT TUMULTUOUS FEDAYEEN RALLY HELD HERE DEC. 6, OPENLY DECLARED HIS SUPPORT FOR CONCEPT OF PALESTINIAN STATE, ACCEPTANCE OF WHICH HE CLAIMED IS NECESSITATED BY NEW "STRUGGLE REQUIREMENTS" BROUGHT ABOUT BY ME DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING OCTOBER WAR. REFERRING TO LIKELIHOOD OF PEACE SETTLEMENT BEING IMPOSED ON PALESTINIANS, HE NOTED FEDAYEEN "FACE CHOICE BETWEEN PASSIVE OPPOSITION AND POSITIVE REVOLUTIONARY OPPOSITION THAT REQUIRES OUR PEOPLE TO
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 13930 071835Z

WREST AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL EXISTENCE ON ANY PIECE OF PALESTINIAN

SOIL" WHICH CAN BE REGAINED FROM ISRAELI CONTROL. IF SETTLEMENT IS TO BE IMPOSED, SAID HAWATMEH, "WE MUST GRAB LARGEST POSSIBLE AREA OF LIBERATED LAND. WE MUST NEVER ALLOW THAT LAND TO REVERT TO KING HUSSEIN OR BE ANNEXED TO ISRAEL." BY SO DOING, HE ARGUED, PALESTININANS COULD BETTER PRESERVE THEMSELVES AS PEOPLE AND CARRY ON STRATEGIC STRUGGLE TO OVERTHROW JORDANIAN REGIME, DEFEAT ISRAEL AND REGAIN THEIR "FULL RIGHTS".

2. COMMENT: HAWATMEH'S REMARKS ARE NOTEWORTHY IN THAT THEY REPRESENT CLEARER PUBLIC INDICATION TO DATE THAT BULK OF FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP IS MOVING MORE AND MORE OUT OF ITS PROTECTIVE SHELL IN PREPARATION FOR WHAT IT HOPES WILL BE PLO PARTICIPATION IN PEACE TALKS AT GENEVA AND EVENTUAL INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. WE HAVE ALREADY NOTED CAUTIOUS ATTEMPTS BY 'ARAFAT AND SALAH KHALAF TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR THIS IN VARIOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS (BEIRUT 13717 AND PREVIOUS) DESIGNED TO SIGNAL THEIR READINESS ACCEPT INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS AND AT SAME TIME ALLAY FEARS OF FEDAYEEN RANK-AND-FILE THAT SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD MEAN SURRENDER OR BETRAYAL OF LONG-TERM, "STRATEGIC" GOAL RE TOTAL "LIBERATION" OF PALESTINE. ALSO, AS PART OF THIS TREND, THERE HAS BEEN SHARP INCREASE IN SIGNS THAT FATAH LEADERSHIP IS PROBING POSSIBILITIES OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH USG OFFICIALS.

3. WE ALSO NOTE RECENT MARKED UPSWING IN TERRORIST OPERATIONS WITHIN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, DEVELOPMENT WHICH IN OUR VIEW SEEMS INTENDED SERVE DOUBLE PURPOSE OF (A) INTIMIDATING PRO-HUSSEIN PALESTINIANS IN WEST BANK FROM OBSTRUCTING FEDAYEEN AMBITIONS TO REPRESENT PALESTINIANS AT PEACE TALKS (SEE EMBASSY MEMO OF NOV. 16 ON THIS SUBJECT, COPIES POUCHED NEA/ARN, AMMAN AND JERUSALEM); AND (B) SERVING NOTICE TO ARAB GOVTS., ISRAEL AND GREAT POWERS THAT PEACE SETTLEMENT WILL NOT BE DURABLE UNLESS FEDAYEEN ARE ACCORDED SAY IN NEGOTIATIONS AND ARE WILLING ACCEPT OUT-COME. WE SUSPECT CONTINUING FEDAYEEN PROVOCATIONS ALONG LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER ARE ALSO IN PART RELATED TO LATTER POINT, EVEN THOUGH FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP FINDS IT CONVENIENT TO USE ARGUMENT (PARTIALLY CORRECT) THAT SUCH ACTIVITY IS BEING MOUNTED BY "UN-DISCIPLINED ELEMENTS" NOT RESPONSIVE TO PLO CONTROL. BUFFUM

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 13930 071835Z

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